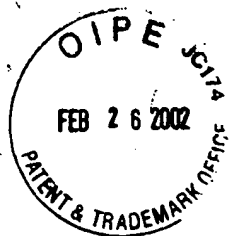


RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

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ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO: E0295/7066 (RFG/EJR)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*Copy of
#12*

Applicant: S. Blumenau, et al.
Serial No: 09/107,618
Filed: June 30, 1998
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING DATA MANAGEMENT FOR
A STORAGE SYSTEM COUPLED TO A NETWORK

Examiner: D. Dinh
Art Unit: 2153

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Box AF, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the 17th day of October, 2001.


Edward J. Russavage, Reg. No. 43,069

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2100

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed July 17, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and entry of this amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Applicant presents the claims as amended below and encloses two separate sheets indicating the amendments to the claims with bracketing and underlining.

1. A data management method for managing access to a plurality of volumes of a storage system by at least two devices coupled to the storage system through a network, the method comprising steps of: